



TARGET ACCESS



Interpreting Services Move To A Brighter, More Convenient Location

TARGET Access

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As part of the renovation of the South Building, USDA Interpreting Services recently moved to a new location in room 0030, adjacent to the tunnel to the Whitten Building in the center of the South Building. In an interview with TARGET Access, Interpreting Services' Susie Prior, Lynette Spriggs, and Nancy Frohman shared their thoughts on the new office, the state of Interpreting Services at USDA, and Deaf culture in general.

Susie Prior has been Program Manager of the Interpreting Services Program since 1992. Lynette has been answering requests

and arranging interpreters for over 8 years. Nancy, the newest addition, joined the group last year.

TA: What is your favorite thing about your new office?

Lynette: The new room is very big and friendly. I love it.

Nancy: It's also very close to many places where there are always things happening.

Susie: Definitely, the location is convenient to where we meet interpreters, and to getting anywhere in the USDA complex. I

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love the brightness and the fact that there is a lot more filing space.

TA: What one thing about Interpreting Services do you think people should know more about?

Nancy: It's not only for the Deaf employees; it's for everyone.

Lynette: We have an interpreter lounge now, right next door in room 0032. There's even Internet access for them to use.

Susie: We have a new email address (Interpreting.Services@usda.gov) for improved communication.

Nancy: Also, we would really like to encourage people to put in their requests at least 2 weeks in advance. This gives us the best chance of filling it.

Susie: I agree...having adequate lead-time for requests is very important.

TA: If you could do one thing that would make the work experience better for every Deaf USDA employee, what would that be?

Nancy: To be able to provide interpreting services at the last minute. For example, if someone's supervisor decides this morning that they need to have a meeting in the afternoon, that is obviously not 2 weeks ahead of time. Sometimes we can find an interpreter on short notice; I wish we always could.

Susie: I would like to see more individuals, in each branch/division, learn sign language so that they can communicate with a Deaf co-worker. That would give them a better idea about Deaf culture and make the work environment more inclusive.

TA: That sounds great. Maybe the TARGET Center can have a Deaf culture event and invite Deaf employees and their co-workers.

Lynette: Great idea! I would just like to have enough interpreters to meet the demand. Sometimes there just aren't enough available.

TA: How often do you smile each day at work?
(laughter)

TA: Don't worry; you don't have to answer this question.

Susie: No, no! I think it's a great question. We really do smile almost all day. We love our work and working with each other. Of course it can be stressful, but we

try to make it a very happy environment.

Lynette: I smile every minute.
(laughter)

TA: Did you smile as much in your old office?

Nancy: They smile here more because I am no



Nancy Frohman communicates via web-cam.

longer taking up space in their office.
(laughter)

Editor's note: Nancy's office is across the hall from the Interpreting Services office.

TA: I understand there is something called a name sign. What is your name sign and what does it mean?

Susie: Well first off, for those who don't know, you don't choose your own name sign in Deaf culture. A Deaf person gives you a sign. Usually it involves your given name in some way, maybe the first letter, and then a sign for something they associate with you.

TA: How come no one gave me a sign?
(laughter)

Susie: We could ask the Deaf community to come up

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with one for you I'm sure.

Nancy: My sign comes from the sign for gum, which is very similar to the letter 'N'...like the first letter of my name. I used to chew a lot of gum when I was younger and so that's where that came from. When I was older I had a name based on my last name, but then I got married and that changed, so I just went back to my previous sign.

Lynette: Mine is an 'L' for Lynette, together with the sign for smile.

Nancy: She really does smile all the time.

Susie: It's a beautiful smile. I have an 'S' for Susie, combined with the sign for the word 'before', because my last name is Prior. You know...prior, like before.

TA: Well, thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. Before we finish up though, what was the first sign each of you ever learned?

Nancy: Oh my! I was 16 years old at the time, so I unfortunately don't remember.

Lynette: Mine was either "teacher" or "food."

Susie: The first sign I ever learned was "name." In that same lunchtime conversation, I learned the sign for "hamburger."



Susie Prior is busy filling requests.

How to reach USDA Interpreting Services:

Email: Interpreting.Services@usda.gov

Phone: 202-720-3515

TARGET Center Unveils New Display to CAP Partner HUD



TARGET Staff participate at HUD event.

Those who have visited a TARGET Center booth in the past may have noticed something new this year. On June 7th, the TARGET Center provided a display booth at the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Health Fair. The HUD event marked the first local unveiling of TARGET's new flexible display that can be set up with interchangeable graphic panels that match the event. If you haven't seen it yet, look for the new TARGET display to be set up in the cafeteria and hallways the next time TARGET holds a big event.

TARGET exhibited at the HUD event to promote the fact that TARGET's demonstration center is open to fellow partners of the Defense Department's Computer Accommodations Program (CAP). The TARGET Center maintains a technology demonstration center with the latest ergonomic and assistive technology, and CAP partners are encouraged to use the Center as a resource to help identify solutions that fit individual needs.



Join APDA Today!

The Association for Persons with Disabilities in Agriculture (APDA) is an employee association celebrating diversity within USDA.

Regular monthly meetings are open to everyone who wants to broaden their horizons, break down attitudinal barriers, and build relationships based on positive experiences, including employees with disabilities, their supervisors, managers, co-workers, and family members, and advocates for persons with disabilities.

Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month in the back of the South Building cafeteria or other locations as announced starting at 11:30 a.m.

You don't have to have a disability to participate in APDA activities.

All USDA employees are welcome to attend.

For more information, visit www.apda.usda.gov.

TARGET Center Training Schedule

The following training classes take place monthly in the TARGET Center. The dates listed in *italics* are the next two available sessions for each course. Please contact the course instructor to reserve a spot and to request a sign-language interpreter, alternative formatting or other necessary accommodations.

Workstation Ergonomics

August 3rd, 12 pm - 1 pm

Instructor: [David Kay](#), 202-720-2600

Don't wait until your wrists hurt or your neck aches! Prevent the injuries before they occur. What are the causes of repetitive strain injuries (like Carpal Tunnel Syndrome) and how can you reduce the risks of these injuries? Learn this and more at TARGET's ergonomic training session.

Making Accessible PDFs

July 13th or August 10th, 12 pm - 1pm

Instructor: [Paul Lloyd](#), 202-720-2600

Create accessible, Section 508 compliant PDF files with Adobe 6.0 from MS Word, forms, and other file formats. Listen to a screen reader read an accessible PDF in this training class.

Customizing Your PC

July 20th or August 17th, 12 pm - 1 pm

Instructor: [David Kay](#), 202-720-2600

Learn how to personalize your PC settings in this TARGET class! Change the colors and font sizes of your desktop and Internet browser. Take full advantage of the tools already on your computer.

Please visit our web site for more information and a complete listing of disability related events.



Service that works.

USDA TARGET Center
1400 Independence Avenue Room 1006-S
Tel: 202.720.2600 (v/tty)
target-center@usda.gov www.usda.gov/oo/target